It's Commander 'Brad' Now

(Editor's note: Sooner Magazine in this article pays tribute to an outstanding Oklahoma alumnus, Bradford M. Risinger, '23ba, of Sand Springs. Mr. Risinger was elevated to the state's highest position in American Legion circles a few weeks later as department commander of his 75,000 comrades. Miss Cecile Davis, writer of this special feature, has distinguished herself in the field of public relations and radio-journalism. She is with KTUL in Tulsa. She was graduated from O.U. in 1944 after being an undergraduate student of the University of Texas. While at O.U. she held membership in Theta Sigma Phi, professional honorary society, was issue editor and was editor of the Oklahoma Daily, a staff member of the Sooner yearbook, and in 1943 was vice-president of Alpha Phi Sorority.)

By CECILE L. DAVIS, '44JOURNAL

Get a bunch of Sooneys together anytime, and it won't be long before they have the situation well in hand. No exception was Oklahoma's August American Legion commander in Oklahoma City, when an O.U. alumnus went to the post as a dark horse candidate for the department commander.

When the smoke cleared, it was Sooner Bradford M. Risinger, '23ba, of Sand Springs, who held the state's top American Legion job. Risinger's election was a surprise to everybody, including himself, but he has set out on his new task with confidence. They are probably two outstanding reasons which explain how, with such a responsible job unexpectedly thrust upon him, he can tackle it with assurance—one is his abiding faith in the ideals of his organization, and the other is his knowledge of the loyal support of a host of friends.

It's a standing joke around the Tulsa County Courthouse, where Risinger is assistant county attorney, that "Brad" can't walk across the street in less than five minutes, because every passer-by knows him and wants to stop for a chat. Since the news of his election went out over the state, well-wishers everywhere in Oklahoma have kept him busy receiving them in person or answering their congratulatory letters.

Risinger's birth in the American Legion is one of 25 years of faithful service, during which he has held every post from sergeant-at-arms to commander.

"I've been much of a braggart about winning the first World War," he explains, "because I was just a lad at the time, and was only in the army three months. But the Legion organization was created to help those who did suffer—not just the veterans, but their wives, widows and orphans, as well."

The new commander is in a position to know what kind of help the Legion can do and does extend, because he served as service officer of his Sand Springs post, St. Michael, for 20 years and was succeeded just a year ago by a World War II veteran. Earlier this summer he completed a term as Tulsa county commander of the Legion, and almost immediately was elected to the district commandanship, which he resigned when he was named to the state post.

In 1929-30, Risinger was elected to represent his home district on the department executive committee. In 1937 he was appointed to the departmental child welfare committee, on which he served for four years, and he is now completing his fourth year as a member of the Legion's committee on child welfare for the entire southern area.

Risinger helped a total of 7,000 Oklahoma children during one year when he was serving on the state committee, and he can tell stories by the score of the youngsters he has taken a personal interest in—orphans, kids he has encouraged and helped during the years they were growing up and going to work and getting on with life.

"You don't get paid back for that in dollars," says Risinger, "but when you're able to give a kid a chance to make something of himself, the compensation is here-inside."

Although the Legion receives an important part of Risinger's time and energy, it is but one of his many interests. He is a lay leader in the Methodist church, a dyed-in-the-wood Democrat (a compliment to his ability that he was retained in office by a Republican county attorney), and a Sooner through and through.

Risinger was born in Norman and grew up in the shadow of the University. His father, the late Robert E. Lee Risinger, had lived in Norman 51 years at the time of his death last year. His mother, the former Minnie Gertrude Morse, only recently moved from Norman to Muskogee. Risinger's three sisters, Miss Crystal Risinger and Mrs. Jewel Dittman, both of Muskogee, and Mrs. Golda Unkefer, of North Hollywood, California, are alumnae of the University, and a niece, Miss Maurine Dittman, is currently a student at O.U.

As well as he can remember, Brad was about eight years old when he began to be very much aware of the University—particularly its football team. He was a faithful spectator at after-school scrimmages, and the boys on the squad were his heroes. After attending Norman schools, he entered the University, but after his third year of college, he took a year out to teach history, Latin and solid arithmetic. At the University he was a member of Sigma Chi and Phi Delta Phi. A cap-
Peyton Ford—He's Doing Okay
In U. S. Justice Department

By CULLEN JOHNSON
Daily Oklahoman Staff Writer

This is the story of a young Oklahoma lawyer, who in a brilliant 18-month career in Washington has climbed to a key position in the Department of Justice.

He is Assistant U. S. Attorney General Peyton Ford, '346a, '34law, head of the department's claims division and boss of a staff of 300, including upwards of 175 lawyers, some of whom soon will be testing injunctive provisions of the new Taft-Hartley labor law.

Ford was chosen by Attorney General Tom Clark for the important claims division assignment last May, less than a year and a half after he wound up a wartime legal career that included duty as a special assistant to the Secretary of War, then climbed to a key position in the Department of Justice, and was called up in 1941. In September of that year he shipped out to the Philippines, and was there when war broke out. After the capture of Bataan, he spent nine months in the infamous Japanese prison camps at Camp O'Donnel and Cabanatuan, and the rest of the war at Zentsuji, Japan. An auditor for the Kerr Glass Company of Sand Springs since his return from the service, Hohl has been a member of St. Mihiel Legion post for a year. Although he has plenty to keep him busy as state commander—including a trip to the Legion's national convention last August—Risinger plans again this year to secure his usual 25 memberships in the Legion. He began by recruiting a colleague in the Tulsa county attorney's office, who in a brilliant 18-month career in Washington in January, 1946, as a special assistant to the Attorney General, Ford did various trouble-shooting chores for the Attorney General until the top-spot opening led to his promotion late last spring.

Today his name is rapidly becoming very well known in Washington and elsewhere, particularly among citizens involved in lawsuits with the government.

The claims division which he heads is entrusted with the trial of all cases for or against the government, with the exception of criminal and antitrust cases.

One of the duties of the division is the trial of suits involving termination of excessive profits on war contracts. Last year the division directed negotiations of more than $480 millions worth of war contracts. Last year the division directed negotiations of more than $480 millions worth of war contracts. Last year the division directed negotiations of more than $480 millions worth of war contracts.

During the fiscal year which ended last June 30, claims division lawyers tried about 675 cases in tax court with no falling off of business indicated for this year.

When the Eightieth Congress passed the Taft-Hartley labor bill over the president's veto, Ford became the man who will direct all civil ends of government, with the exception of criminal and antitrust cases.

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Alumnus Leads B-29 Squadron In Record-Breaking Flight

By Maj. William H. Witty, '32A
Washington, D. C.

Led by an alumnus of the University of Oklahoma, Lieut. Col. Howard F. Hugos, '35-'38, members of the 492nd Very Heavy Bomb Squadron of the Eighth Air Force climaxed the nation's celebration of Air Force Day on August 1 by completing a record-breaking, one-stop flight of B-29's from Tokyo to Washington.

Seven of the squadron's eight planes completed the 7,086-mile flight in 30 hours and 25 minutes and the eighth plane, forced to make an unscheduled stop at Adak Island, in the Aleutian chain, arrived in Washington four hours and nineteen minutes later.

The flight established two significant "firsts" in aviation history. It set a new time and distance record for standard tactical bomber aircraft flying in mass, in combat formation. Previous flights of B-29's which have set distance and time records have been under special conditions with planes "strapped down" and otherwise prepared to establish speed records. Also, for the first time, radio contact was maintained with the flight by Headquarters, Strategic Air Command in Washington during the entire 7,086-mile trip.

The one stop of the flight for refueling was made "at Elmendorf Field, Anchorage, Alaska, 15 hours and 10 minutes after take-off from Yokota Air-drome, Japan. There a mishap was averted when the first plane, piloted by Lieut. Horace Nichols, '39-'40, Ardmore, Oklahoma, came down through the mist after narrowly missing a spruce-covered hill near the field.

One plane dropped out of the flight at Adak when the pilot radioed that he was unable to transfer gasoline from reserve storage to wing tanks while airborne. He arrived at Anchorage three hours later, and was subsequently delayed in taking off for Washington.

Tired, but obviously very happy and proud of the successful flight, Lieutenant Colonel Hugos said on arrival at Andrews Field in Washington that the trip was made without incident.

The flight from Tokyo and the flight back to home base at Fort Worth, Texas, on August 2 marked the end of a long training mission for the squadron which began earlier in the summer when the squadron went to the Pacific area for a month's training. There the squadron chalked up a record of 861 training hours, an average of 141 hours per flight.

Training included missions up and down the Chinese and Korean coasts for the aging 14 hours. This training included missions up and down the Chinese and Korean coasts for the big planes of the squadron.

Commenting on the success of the training, Colonel Hugos modestly gave the squadron's maintenance men a major share of the credit, when he said, "The pilots can't go far if the planes don't fly."

A feature of the trip from Japan to the United States described as "the longest and fastest mass flights of bombers ever attempted" was the use of radio by newspapermen in the flight's personnel complement of more than 160 persons to file news copy while airborne.

A party of nine newspapermen were flown to Tokyo late in July to join the squadron and return to the United States with the record-making flight. Their stories were radioed while in flight to Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Washington and then relayed to their publications.

After receiving a tremendous ovation from some 50,000 persons who jammed Andrews Field to welcome the fliers, Lieutenant Colonel Hugos was greeted by Major Gen. Clement McMullen, deputy commanding general of the Strategic Air Command and delivered to the general a large packet-letter sent to General Spaatz, Commander of the Army Air Forces by Lt. Gen. E. C. Whitehead, commander of the Far Eastern Air Forces. The interested spectators are weary crew members.

SEPTEMBER, 1947
Guss King Babb Talks His Way to New Radio Job in Colorado

The manager of a new radio station in Pueblo, Colorado, was enjoying a broadcast while driving through Oklahoma last summer. The program on the air was "World, Farm and Market News," and at the microphone—on the tower of the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building on the campus of the University of Oklahoma—was Guss King Babb, '47Bus, WNAD's chief announcer.

Guss, known to his '47 bus, was a University of Oklahoma radio station off and on for several years, having been staff announcer at the O.U. station and chief announcer of KCSJ. An airmail letter from KCSJ, offering a position with WNAD and was hired by Homer Heck, '35, who at that time was station manager.

The transient liked what he heard; and it was but a matter of days that Guss—known to his radio audience as "Guss King"—was on his way to Pueblo to join the announcing staff of station KCSJ. An airmail letter from KCSJ, offering a substantial salary with surprisingly good opportunities for advancement and emphasizing "ideal working and living conditions in Pueblo," closed the deal.

Although Guss had been associated with the University radio station off and on for several years, his side specialty was dishwashing and hash-slinging, the latter of which he had taken part in "Our Town," "Chalk Dust," "Death Takes a Holiday," "The Taming of the Shrew," and "Claudia." Last year he held feature roles in "Kiss and Tell" and "The Late George Apley." In 1945 he received a Buffalo Mask, O.U.'s Oscar, for outstanding work on the University stage.

A member of Pi Kappa Alpha Social Fraternity, El Modjii, Scabbard and Blade, Phantom Mask, University Players, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Guss hopes to mix dramatic and speech talents with his business education and eventually manage a radio station. Then, perhaps, he'll find more time to devote to golf, horseback riding and his monstrous St. Bernard, Komig.

Sears-Roebuck Scholarship Plan Aids Sooner Students

The annual Scholarship Award Luncheon sponsored by the Sears, Roebuck and Company Foundation was the occasion for the presentation of six scholarships to Oklahoma City high school students.

Four of the six students attended high schools which have University alumni for principals.

Miss Lucille Morgan from Foster High School received one award. The principal of her school is Charles Grady, Jr., '32bus, '39m.bus.

Miss Sally Richardson was chosen from Classen High School and W. H. Taylor, '28ma, is principal of that school.

Capitol Hill High School was represented by Miss Nelda Gae Smith, W. C. Haller, '27ba, '37med, is the principal of the Capitol Hill school.

Miss Dorothy Stout from Britton High School and Principal Frank Overman, '22ba, '35med, were also present at the luncheon.

Miss Juanita Scales was the scholarship winner from Northeast High School and Kenneth O'Malley was chosen to receive the award from Central High. J. B. Greene and F. R. Born are principals of those schools, respectively.

Two of the scholarship winners, Kenneth O'Malley and Nelda Gae Smith, have chosen to use their awards at the University.

Another alumnus present at the luncheon was Dean Glenn C. Couch, '18ma, who represented the University.

The scholarships are presented to the students on the basis of character, scholastic ability and need. The selection of the students for the awards is made by a school committee from their respective schools.

The foundation provides for seven $300 scholarships to help and encourage young students to continue their education. The award may be used at any accredited school of the student's choice.

Other funds are distributed in various ways by the foundation, but mainly through scholarships, 4-H and F.F.A. pig and cattle projects.

The Oklahoma City awards are made under the supervision of Charles D. Troyer, general manager of the Oklahoma City store.

Sooner Sparkle on Stage

Sooner on the "great white way" seldom have a chance to get homesick for the people back in Oklahoma because there is a liberal sprinkling of them in the entertainment business in old New York.

Among the alumni working in the "big city" are:

Amzie Strickland, '40ba, who is playing in "Light of the World," "Charlie Chan" and many other programs.

Russell Black, '42ba, works at the news "mike" for NBC.

David Sureau, '39-41, is doing a dramatic part in Miss Hart's "World of Christopher Blake."

Bob Clark, a former student, is now a scout for Hollywood. He travels to New York to look for plays which are adaptable to the screen.

Minnie Jo Curtis, '41ba, received one of the biggest honors of the summer when she won a dramatic reading contest which gave her a trip to New York to compete with four national finalists. At present she is a radio script writer in Detroit, Michigan.

Charles Carshon, who recently visited Oklahoma City said, "There were five Oklahomans in one group on the third floor of the NBC building the other day." Carshon is playing the role of a German professor in "Arrowsmith," instructing in drama and has participated in several programs sponsored by the Office of War Information which were beamed overseas.
Anderson Has 'Prexy' Title

Olson Anderson, 25ba, of Bay City, Michigan, has been elected president of the National Association of Visual Education Dealers, it was announced last month by B. A. Cosmon, retiring President of the Association, at the conclusion of the organization’s annual convention in Chicago.

Although born in Tennessee, early life and education in the Sooner State (part of it before statehood) makes Mr. Anderson a true Oklahoman. Also, he still has close attachments in Oklahoma.

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Lyons, 1924-26.

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To make the job easier for these patrolmen and to cut down the death toll resulting from traffic accidents, an effort is being made to train a new generation of better drivers. The last legislature provided for driving courses in high schools with credit being granted. Teachers of these courses are trained during the summer at O. U. and other Oklahoma institutions. Teaching safety precautions to the youth of the state, better drivers can be expected in the years to come.

Another legislation affecting the department of public safety passed during the last legislature is a retirement bill. Governor Turner signed this bill into law as an act creating a death disability and retirement fund for benefit of members of the department of public safety.

The retirement fund adds another inducement to a career with the troopers. Such a two year's service, however, is preceded by much screening, testing and schooling.

Requirements for patrolman application are high. In addition to rigid physical requirements, applicants must be at least 25 years of age, be a high school graduate and have resided in the state a minimum of two years.

After the application is received at departmental headquarters, an intensive investigation is made of the applicant. If nothing detrimental is uncovered during the investigation, the applicant is called for an interview. The examining board is composed of the commissioner, assistant commissioner, chief of patrol activities and the two patrol captains. The board rates each man according to his personality and other aspects figuring in the duties of a trooper.

Intelligence and adaptability tests are given applicants who have passed the board. Passing these tests the applicant is permitted entrance to the highway patrol school. In school the students must be on their toes to avoid washing out of the tough course. Fifty or sixty different subjects are studied at them in a period of six weeks. Classes cover practically everything experience has taught the troopers. It is known to the patrol that in six weeks of the time is spent in getting practical experience under the direct supervision of uniformed employees of the department. All courses are taught by employees of the department.

After passing the course the trainee goes on duty as a patrolman, but for a year he is on probation and his services may be terminated at any time if he should fail to live up to the high standards required of the patrol. After completing this probation period he can not be dismissed without trial. Such trial is heard by the state attorney general, chairman of state highway commission, and commissioner of public safety.

The patrol is governed by a set of general orders and by-laws. Although disciplinary action is provided for, little is necessary. By the time trainees have gone through such rigid screening and training required, those who would intentionally violate orders are usually eliminated.

An occasional retraining course in which all employees of the department participate keeps everyone abreast of the changes in new legislation affecting the patrol. New techniques learned by experience are dispensed during these courses.

As in the course given new trainees, courtesy is stressed. The uniform of the individual trooper represents the entire department, and his actions in dealing with the public casts reflection on the department. The patrol's aim is to secure better
cooperation between the safety department and the public. This can be done only through courteous public relations.

Paul W. Reed assumed duties as commissioner of public safety upon appointment by Governor Roy J. Turner March 1, 1947. In taking over as chief of the department in the Armory Building two blocks west of the capitol, Reed replaced Commissioner Bud Gentry.

Gentry headed the department when it was first organized during former Governor E. W. Marland's administration. He was out of office during the Phillips' administration, but was recalled for Kerr's four years in the governor's seat. When Reed took over the reins of the public safety department, Gentry retired to private business, but his life was cut short in a traffic accident July 10, 1947.

The Woodward tornado cut its devastating swath across northwestern Oklahoma during Reed's early days in office. He left his work in the Oklahoma City office and proceeded to the stricken area to personally direct patrol activities. Under his command the troopers kept traffic lanes open and aided in evacuation and first aid administration.

The commissioner is not the only one in the department who tells stories about "when I was at O. U." He is joined by 22 other Sooners. Wayne A. Vernon, '39a, serves as executive secretary to Reed and is in charge of patrol activities in the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. He joined the patrol in June, 1947.

Other alumni in the department include Leo High, '17, chief of registration; William Miller, Lancaster, patrol clerk, Claremore; Weldon L. Parks, '41, patrol clerk, Clinton; Billy Joe Miller, radio clerk at KOSO (highway patrol radio station), Oklahoma City; Roy J. Turner, '22a, radio operator, Oklahoma City; W. A. Parker, license enforcement officer, Oklahoma City; Lulu Pybas, secretary, Oklahoma City, and Jack Vostilow, permit clerk, Tulsa.

Troopers who are alumni are listed together with their present assignment location. They are L. W. D. Hamilton, '30, Lawton; Lt. E. S. Clark, Enid, Okla.; H. D. Lane, '28, McAlester; Humphrey, '28, Pawnee, Howard J. Flanagan, '26, Sulpher; Carl H. Tyler, '28, Oklahoma City, and Joe Curtis Bussy, '34, Claremore.

Others are Glenn Clark, '43, Ada; Harold H. Harmon, Tulsa; Marcus Carter, Ardmore; Otto Boyd Patterson, Vinita; James Stallings, Pawnee, and William J. Cormack, Duncan.

Charles Duffy Drops Legion Reins After Successful Year

On the eve of the 29th Annual Convention of the Oklahoma Department of the American Legion held at the Municipal Auditorium in Oklahoma City last month, a comprehensive annual report was issued concerning organization under the leadership of Charles B. Duffy, '22law, state commander.

The annual report, issued by department headquarters of the American Legion from the State Historical Building in Oklahoma City, showed among other accomplishments under Duffy's command, that the 21st session of the Oklahoma Legislature, upon recommendation of this veteran's organization, appropriated extra large funds for the Oklahoma veteran's department and the general rehabilitation of the state veterans' hospital. When Commander Duffy summarized this legislative activity, he concluded his statement as follows:

"The greatest state legislative program in Legion history was accomplished in the 21st Oklahoma Legislature."

The report shows further that during the period July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1947 Oklahoma veterans, widows and orphans received 2,498 monthly checks, totaling $1,903,358.36. More than 7,250 cases were reviewed by the claim staff of the Legion during the 12-month period.

In the field of Americanism, the Oklahoma department cooperated under Commander Duffy's leadership. School awards numbering 2,395 were given out for participation in Americanism activities throughout the state. More than 400 students participated in the national oratorical contest sponsored by the Legion. The Classen High School representative in Oklahoma City, Gerald Hornung, placed third in the national finals.

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Dick H. Dale—Encouragement For O. U. Journalism Students

To journalism majors at the University who stay awake nights thinking about years of cubship at a low wage following graduation, the career of Richard H. Dale is a source of inspiration.

For years photography has been Dale's main object in life. In the army he was a "photo-bug," working on service newspapers and doing signal corps work. Part of this time was spent as a staff member of the 45th division newspaper, which he later edited in the postwar reactivated division.

Around the journalism school, after he returned from the Army, Dale was known as campus secretary of Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalism fraternity; president of the campus chapter of Kappa Alpha Mu, national honorary photography fraternity, and president of Camera Club. He was the publicity chairman of Union Activities Board.

But to get the reason why Dale is held in such esteem by former fellow students. After graduation from the School of Journalism in June, 1947, he did eight weeks of graduate work at the University, and then accepted a job with NEA-Acme News-Picture syndicate.

He was sent to the Chicago bureau of the syndicate to train for six-weeks preparatory to going to Paris, France, as a photographer. After a few days of routine work shooting news-pictures for the bureau, Dale returned to Oklahoma City. OU journalists were surprised but pleased to read his by-line syndicated features which were printed nationally.

He had been with Acme less than a month when he was elevated to the position of night editor of the Chicago bureau, Acme's second largest bureau.

Knowing Dick Dale as an adventurer who enjoys using his extensive knowledge of four languages, University friends are looking forward to following his career by way of accredited newspicture work from the European continent.

University of Oklahoma journalism students last summer were able to see their mother's screen idols through the Union Activities Board's program featuring old films.

This is the first time this journal has been given

,argentina-7c Beef, Low Wages

November 14, 1946


This book might tempt the American housewife, struggling with high prices, to catch the next boat back to Buenos Aires, where a pound of pork, 20c a dozen, butter 25c a pound, and milk 6c a quart. Mrs. Greenupp, the former Ruth Robinson who was a student in the O. U. School of Journalism during the Depression, and her husband contribute a lively and fascinating description of conditions in that South American country.

One particularly appetizing chapter leaves the reader feeling he'll never again be content with mere steaks, potatoes, peas and other commonplace North American dishes.

It is really two books in one. In a fresh, conversational tone, the authors relate the ideas on cultural conditions—especially those existing in Argentina. Mrs. Greenupp supplies most of the social comment, Mr. Greenupp the business and political information.

The serious and complex governmental problems receive the main consideration. The regimes of the numerous presidents who held office during the five years the authors spent in Argentina provide serious and interesting reading. The Greenups' experiences during the height of German operations in that country are excitingly told.

They explain that salaries are very low compared to our standards. The average skilled worker, prior to the advent of the military government, didn't make over $45 a month. Yet, with wage increases, some of the workers were worse off than before, as they had to go back to increased working hours. Also under the control of the new government is the educational system. Children now learn to march, and glorification of military history and sacrifice is stressed.

The reading matter is supplemented with related photographs—mostly geographic—taken by the Greenups during their travels.

Revolution Before Breakfast contains vivid descriptions of Argentine personalities—their habits, interests in United States movies and books, and sense of humor. It gives the reader a better understanding of these South American neighbors.—By Thelma Gill Hess, "47bus.

Readers, Critics Praise 'Cervantes'

University of Oklahoma Press books have often been in the news, but none has received more attention than Cervantes, written by Aubrey F. G. Bell, and published by the Press on August 16, which has established some kind of an American publishing record. On August 9 it was the subject of the cover, the leading article, and the leading review in the Saturday Review of Literature, which forecast its publication a week later. On August 17 the book occupied the front pages of the New York Times and New York Herald-Tribune. It is seldom that a book published in this country receives the simultaneous praise of all three leading literary editors and top billing in their respective publications.

The book on the author of Don Quixote was written by Mr. Bell, perhaps the most distinguished of all Hispanic scholars in the English-speaking world, at the request of the Press. Mr. Bell, who now lives in Victoria, British Columbia, was formerly librarian at the British Museum, London, and for many years thereafter was the Madrid correspondent for the London Morning Post. Cervantes is his fifteenth book on subjects connected with Spanish and Portuguese letters.

The Press's literary list this fall contains vivid descriptions of Argentine personalities—their habits, interests in United States movies and books, and sense of humor. It gives the reader a better understanding of these South American neighbors.—By Thelma Gill Hess, "47bus.